

SUBCHAPTER I—MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OPERATIONS AND AUTHORITIES

PART 975—COLLECTION, SETTLEMENT, AND PROCESSING OF PAYMENT INSTRUMENTS

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§ 975.1 Authority and scope.

(a) Pursuant to section 11(e)(2) of the Act (12 U.S.C. 1431(e)(2)) (Bank Act), the Finance Board has promulgated this part governing the collection, processing, and settlement, and services incidental thereto, of drafts, checks, and other negotiable and non-negotiable items and instruments by Banks. Settlement, collection, and processing include the following activities as defined in this part: Account processing, data processing, data communication, issuance of forms, transportation of items, and storage services.

(b) Any activity authorized by section 11(e)(2) of the Bank Act shall be governed by the provisions of this part.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 5, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

§ 975.2 Definitions.

(a) Unless otherwise defined in this part, the terms used in this part shall conform, in the following order, to: Regulations of the Finance Board, the Uniform Commercial Code, regulations of the Federal Reserve System, and general banking usage.

(b) The term *account processing* includes charging, crediting, and settling of member or eligible institution accounts, excluding individual customer accounts.

(c) As used in this part, the term *assets* includes furniture and equipment, leasehold improvements, and capitalized start-up costs.

(d) The term *data processing* includes capture, storage, and assembling of, and computation of, data from payment instruments received from Federal Reserve offices, Banks, clearinghouse associations, depository institutions, and other direct sending entities.

(e) The term *data communication* means transmitting and receiving of data to or from Banks, Federal Reserve offices, clearinghouse associations, depository institutions or their service bureaus, and other direct sending entities, arrangement for delivery of information; and telephone inquiry service.

(f) The term *eligible institution* means any institution eligible to make application to become a member of a Bank under section 4 of the Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1424).

(g) The term *issuance of forms* means the designation and distribution of standardized forms for use in collection, processing, and settlement services.

(h) The term *presentment* means a demand for acceptance or payment made upon the maker, acceptor, drawee or other payor by or on behalf of the holder, and may involve the use of electronic transmission of an instrument or item or transmission of data from the instrument or item by electronic or mechanical means.

(i) The term *statement packaging* includes receiving statement information from members or eligible institutions or their service bureaus on respective customer cycle dates; printing statements; matching customer account statements; packaging the statements with appropriate items and informational materials, as authorized by individual members and eligible institutions, for distribution to their customers; sending the packages to the members or eligible institutions or mailing the packages directly to their customers.

(j) The term *storage services* includes filing, storage, and truncation of items.

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(k) The term *transportation of items* includes transporting items from Federal Reserve offices, other Banks clearinghouse associations, depository institutions, and other direct sending entities to a Bank; forwarding items to financial institutions after sorting and forwarding cash items or return items to Federal Reserve offices and other sending entities.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 5, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

§ 975.3 General provisions.

The Banks are authorized (a) to engage in, be agents or intermediaries for, or otherwise participate or assist in, the processing, collection, and settlement of checks, drafts, or any other negotiable or nonnegotiable items and instruments of payment drawn on eligible institutions or Bank members; and (b) to be drawees of checks, drafts, and other negotiable and nonnegotiable items and instruments issued by eligible institutions or Bank members.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 5, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

§ 975.4 Incidental powers.

In connection with the collection, processing, and settlement of items and instruments drawn on or issued by eligible institutions or Bank members, a Bank may also perform the following services, as defined in § 975.2:

(a) Statement packaging; and

(b) Any other activity that the Finance Board shall, from time to time, after notice and comment, find necessary for the exercise of the authority of this part.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 29, 1980, as amended at 55 FR 2231, Jan. 23, 1990; 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

§ 975.5 Operations.

A Bank may utilize the services of a Federal Reserve Bank and may become a member or use the services of a clearinghouse, public or private financial institution, or agency in the exercise of any powers or functions under this part.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 5, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

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§ 975.6 Pricing of services.

(a) *General.* Banks shall charge for services authorized in this part in a manner consistent with the principles of section 11(A)(c) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 248a(c)), as interpreted by this part.

(b) *Payment instrument account services.* (1) In determining the fees for services provided under this part, a Bank must take into account all direct and indirect costs of providing the services.

(2) Prices must reflect the imputed rate of return that would have been earned and the taxes that would have been paid if the Bank were a private corporation, by using a cost of capital adjustment factor applied to those assets used in providing services authorized under this part.

(c) *Review and publication.* The Finance Board shall from time to time and at least annually review the cost of capital adjustment factor and review prices for services authorized in this part for compliance with the principles set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section. All prices for Bank services authorized in this part will be published annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER, except those for fees charged to an applicant for draws made by a beneficiary under a standby letter of credit.

(12 U.S.C. 1431(e); Reorg. Plan No. 3 of 1947, 12 FR 4981, 3 CFR, 1943-48 Comp., p. 1071)

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 29, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 38900, July 30, 1981. Redesignated at 54 FR 36759, Sept. 5, 1989, and amended at 58 FR 59936, Nov. 12, 1993; 60 FR 57682, Nov. 17, 1995; 63 FR 65700, Nov. 30, 1998; 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]

§ 975.7 Rights, powers, responsibilities, duties, and liabilities.

To the extent it is not inconsistent with other provisions of this part, the Uniform Commercial Code governs the rights, powers, responsibilities, duties, and liabilities of Banks in the exercise of their authority under this part. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "bank," as used in the Uniform Commercial Code and clearinghouse rules, includes Banks and their members and eligible institutions.

[45 FR 64164, Sept. 5, 1989, as amended at 65 FR 8266, Feb. 18, 2000]